Gt. Br. Armies (Parl.)
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THE JUST REQUEST OF

The Officers, and Souldiers of this ARMY, under the Command of his Excellency Sr. *Thomas Fairfax*, to their *free Elected* Counsell of *Agitators*,

Right worthy, and betrusted Servants to this Kingdome and ARMIE,

ACcordingly as we by our *free Election*, have betrusted and conferred our own naturall and inherent power upon you, to be come *Agitators* in our behalfs for the good of the *Army*, the *Parliament* and *Kingdome*, and so consequently, for the safety, freedome, and liberty of every free man of *England*: We doe desire, that you would like *faithfull servants* unto us discharge your trust and utmost indeavours for and towards the effectuall relieſe and speedy deliverance of the *unjustly imprisoned* and *oppressed* of the *Land*; And in Order thereunto,

It is no wonder
if such anarchy
as yt then was,
to undertake
ye defence of
such Rogues
John Lilburne
Richard Overt
&c: but ye tem
per of ye Army
is well chan
It is to be
had such fol
lowers will no
no more be
defended or
encouraged

we here offer a Petition unto your juſt and ſpeedy concurrence with us in the premiſſes, on and in the behalfe of Leiutenant Colonell *Iohn Lilburne*, *Richard Overton* (this Kingdomes and Armies Appellant) his Wife, Brother, and others unjuſtly by *Prerogative pleaſure*, contrary to the GREAT CHARTER of *England*, and the *Petition of Right* impriſoned in and about the City of *London*, the which we have prepared, and is ſubſcribed by us, to be preſented to His *Excellency*, earneſtly deſiring, that as it is your duty, ſo you would not faile, to become Petitioners with us in the premiſſes, and ſo joyntly with us implore His *Excellencies concurrence* with his *Army* and *Councell* therein, for the preſent ſafetie and deliverance of the ſaid unjuſtly impriſoned freemen of *England*.

The Petition followeth.

To his Excellency Sir Thomas Fairfax, the just Petition of the Officers and Souldiers of the Army, under his Command.

SHEWETH,

THat whereas we the *Officers* and *Souldiers* of *this Army*, (raised by the great Authority of this Kingdome, for the just freedome both of Parliament and people) have in, and ever since our late solemn engagement to and with each other, to and with the Parliament and Kingdome in our severall papers, given very large hopes to the oppressed of the Kingdome, of impartiall justice and Freedome; And having in a most speciall manner by our Councel of Agitators in their letter to the Seamen given out most *solemn Assurance, upon the faith of honest men and Souldiers, that (whatever may be suggested by any) we have no other aimes, but*

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that justice might act in all its parts, and to all its ends, as relating to all estates and persons in the Kingdome, that the yoakes of oppression might be taken off the necks of all, and Justice equally distributed to all, and the Rights of any (though now detained from them) restored & setled upon them; elsewhere in the said Papers expressing *our resolution to goe on in the prosecution of so good a worke, till we see oppression and oppressours from us and the Kingdome removed, a firme and happy Peace setled, and this poore Kingdome from ruine and distruction delivered*: And in our last Declaration giving further assurance and confirmation, *that it is our chiefe ayme to settle peace with truth and righteousnesse through the Kingdome, that none may be oppressed in his just freedome and liberties.*

So that by these & the like *professions, promises, & expressions* of *ours* in this time of publike calamity and distresse, we have Administred to the *helplesse* and *destitute*, a just *cause of Appeale* and *Addresse* unto *us*, as a *sure Refuge*, to fly to for succour and relief against the merciless *devouring Oppressour*.

Whereupon many of the distressed, destitute, oppressed Commons from severall parts of this Kingdome, out of their good opinion of the sincerity and uprightnesse of our professions and intentions, have been encouraged to make their *sad complaynts* and *Addresses* unto this *Army*, by whom as also by your *Excellency* they have been *entertained* with *great acceptation* and *Commiseration*: And amongst the rest we finde, and in especiall manner take notice of a certaine *Appeale* from and against certaine

certaine *Gentlemen*, *residing at* Westminster *surprizing, usurping, and abusing the place, name, power, and Authority of Parliament* unto the *Body of the people*, and *chiefly* to the *Body of this Army*, by *Richard Overton*, who (as by his *Appeale* & otherwise publikly and certainly appeareth) hath by some *Prerogative men* of this *Kingdome* been most barbarously and inhumanely abused, for no other cause, then for his *strict observation* and *just vindication* of the free *Commoners Rights*, according to the *Great Charter* of *England*, himselfe being throwne into the Goale of *Newgate*, his wife into *Bridewell* (both dragged through the streetes headlong, through the dirt and mire) his Brother into *Malden-lane* Prison, his house plundered and rifled, and his Children exposed to the streetes, and yet for above these 12. moneths space, the said *Appellant* continuing in the said mercilesse *durance*, cruel and unnaturall *divorse*, cannot obtaine any justice either for himselfe, his wife, or his brother, notwithstanding all the ordinary & formall waies & means that either by himself or his friends could be used, himself not only *appealing, complaining, and petitioning to the Parliament of* England, *but also many thousands of the Gentlemen and yeomen of the Counties of* Buckinghamshire, *and* Hartfordshire *in his, and in the behalfe of Lieutenant Colonel* John Lilburne, *&c.* yet through the *obstruction* of the said *factious confederate, traiterous Party in the House* could obtaine *no manner of relief or redresse*, in somuch, that in pursuance of his and their *naturall safety and freedome*,

and

and off just determination off his cause, he was necessitated to the just (though extraordinary) way off Appealing unto the represented body off the people, and in especiall unto your Excellency and the Body off this Army, no other visible formall power for reliefe and protection appearing in the land, therein resigning, submitting, offering, and casting his person and cause (as much as in him lyeth) into the verge off our solemne Engagement for deliverance and protection from the foresaid oppressours and tyrants, still surprising and usurping the place, name, and Authority of the supreame Authority of this Kingdome: That so in point of Common liberty (wherein every free Commoners right is concerned) he may be preserved from the unjust tryall and censure of his, this Armies and the Kingdomes open and declared enemies, and suffer no longer nor any further Oppression by them.

And further, whereas *according to, and in pursuance of the particular mentioned under the fifth head of the representations of the Army, we did earnestly desire that Leiuetenant Colonel* John Lilburne, *the said* Richard Overton, *with others in their condition imprisoned in and about the City of London, should be put into a speedy, regular and equitable way of tryall, or if the necessity of setling the generall affaires of the Kingdom could not admit their present tryall, that then they might have present liberty upon reasonable security. &c.*

Nevertheless, no more justice or freedome can be obtained for them, then if *such a desire* of your *Excellency, and this Army never had been* proposed

Wherefore we your *Officers and Souldiers* being deeply sensible and intelligent, how insufferable & distructive, such Anti parliamentary illegal proceedings & *Commitments* are to the *Lawes, Rights, & Liberties of the freemen of England*, how *contradictory, derogatory, & contemptory* such *delayes & denyals* of justice to

to the reasonable and [illegible] *desires* of the said Countries, & to the proposall of this *Army* are, we cannot but in equity (as in duty we are bound to our own *Solemne engagement*, and do hereby in pursuance thereof, *owne* the *said Appellant*, to be with *us humbled* under the *verge, power and protection of this Army*, to be together and equally with us *saved* and *defended* from the further *violence, oppression and injustice of the said usurpers and abusers of the places, name and authority of Parliament, ours and this Kingdomes open and declared enemies as well as his*; resolving, as much as in us lyeth, to make good our foresaid *professions and promises of justice and right*, to the said *Appellant* equally as to our selves, in behalfe of the Kingdom & of that common cause of freedome and liberty, wherein the said *Appellant* is engaged for the generall safety rights and immunities of the Commons of *England* with the *losse of his owne*.

And we do hereby represent our further *Resolutions*, to conferre the utmost of our endeavours for his, his wives, his Brothers (together with Leiuetenant Colonel *Iohn Lilburne* and others imprisoned in the same condition in and about London) present *release* and *Assumption* into the *power, custody*, and *protection* of this *Army* for the ends and purposes aforesaid, both for a just and free *Parliamentary tryall and judgment*, and *representations* according to Law.

Wherefore we humbly beseech your Excellency, that you would be pleased *to concurre* with us, and

and with our Councell of [illegible] who have already made fully [concurrence therein] for the more orderly effecting thereof, and representation of the same to the free Legall Parliament of England, which was resolved to fly to this Army for refuge; that so no dissatisfaction may be administred either one waies or other.

And your Petitioners shall pray, &c.

FINIS.

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